

*Response to Office Action mailed March 8, 2005
U.S. Patent Application 09/908,983*

Listing of the Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented): The method of claim 30 wherein the one or more files of the communication include attachment notes, file identification modifiers, and external file links.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
providing a control record for each of the one or more files of a communication in a directory location for indexing the one or more files of a communication;
and
for each of the one or more files of the communication, providing a communications record in the activity folders.
6. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
displaying a folder tree;
displaying the contents of an activity folder; and
storing the separated files of the communication as related files within the particular activity folder.
7. (canceled)
8. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, further comprising:
transferring the email communication and related attachments to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communication and related attachments; the transfer including
determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in a standardized file format;
if the one or more files of the communication is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner; and
determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in

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a predetermined format and permitting input from a user to assign the related attachments to an activity folder, wherein the activity folder comprises related attachments regardless of application type and the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system-defined folder, a program-defined folder.

9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a communication;
if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication comprises one or more files;
determining whether a first resulting one or more files of the communication is text;
if the first resulting one or more files of the communication is text, adding the contents of the first resulting one or more files of the communication as a sticker to all the other resulting files of the communication; and
deleting the first resulting one or more files of the communication from the inbox.
12. (currently amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a communication;
if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; and
if the ~~message communication~~ communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication;
determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication;
and
decoding the one or more files of the communication according to the form of encoding.
13. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
executing a find routine to locate a first file in an activity folder;

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making a temporary list of extended file information records;
determining if extended file information for the file is available;
if the extended file information is available, displaying file information concerning the file;
determining if a sticker note associated with the file is found and if the sticker note is found, displaying the existence of the sticker note;
determining if tag information associated with the file is found and if the tag information is found, displaying the existence of the tag information; and
repeating the sequence until no further files are found in the folder.

14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, further comprising:
transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the one or more related attachments of the email communications in accordance with the activity folder;
if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption;
if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form; and
if the transfer is a receive operation, permitting input from a user to assign the file attachments to an activity folder.
16. (previously presented): The method of claim 15, further comprising:
accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands;
performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs;
and
associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the related activity folder.
17. (currently amended): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click;
providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click; and
providing a "release mouse click" function in response to said receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click, thereby permitting folder

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allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click;
providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click;
providing a "release mouse click" function in response said receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click, thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation;
accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands; and
performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs.
19. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, further comprising:
accepting user inputs for file manipulation by tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click;
providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click;
providing a "release mouse click" function in response said receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click, thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation;
performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs;
selectively associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated; and
the association of the subset of the communications files with the current folder including allocating the communications files with a file folder definition of the current folder, thereby providing a common folder structure which includes communications files in individual file folders containing related user files.

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20. (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising:
accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands;
performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs;
and
associating file attachments with the user selected folders, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated.
21. (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising:
transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications in accordance with the association of the subset of files with the folders and the allocation of file attachments folder space, the transfer including
determining whether the message is a record in a standardized file format;
if the message is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner; and
determining whether the message is a record in a predetermined format including association of file attachments, and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated.
22. (currently amended): A computer program product for displaying and manipulating computer files and presenting the computer files in a general folder structure for user files, the computer program product comprising:
code for receiving communications files, wherein a communication file comprises one or more application type files;
code for selecting an activity folder where an activity folder has at least one or more separate current user-defined activity folders; and
code for associating the communications files comprising one or more application type files into separate current user defined activity folders, including code for allocating the separate user defined activity folders within the activity folder for each of the communication files comprising one or more application type files, thereby providing an activity folder which includes related communications files comprising one or more application type files in separate user defined activity folders[[.]] within one activity folder.

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23. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising code for accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands and performing file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs, wherein communication files of one or more application type files are associated with at least one activity folder as one or more file attachments,25. wherein the file attachments are located in a current user defined activity folder said file attachments including but not limited to: attachment notes, file identification modifiers, and external file links.

24. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising:
code for providing a control record in a directory location for indexing a plurality of communications files, by locating the control record in the activity folder for the communications file.

25. (currently amended): The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:
the communications files including email communications; and code for transferring the email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications from an activity folder, the transfer including determining whether the communications file is a record in a standardized file format and if the communications file is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner, and determining whether the communications file is a record in a predetermined format including association of file attachments, thereby assigning the file attachments [[to]] to a current user defined activity folder of the activity folder.

26. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
code for receiving a communications file, and if the communications file is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communications file comprises one or more files;
code for determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as

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a sticker to all the other resulting messages; and
code for deleting the first resulting message from the inbox.

27. (currently amended): The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising code for transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications in [[in]] related one or more attachment files of an activity folder, and if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption and if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form, and if the transfer is a receive operation, permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective activity folder.

28. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 22, further comprising code for tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click, providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click, and providing a "release mouse click" function in response to said receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click, thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation.

29. (previously presented): The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising:

code for performing file manipulation subroutines corresponding to user inputs;
code for selectively associating file attachments with selected ones of the files and for locating the file attachments in the respective activity folder; and
code for the association of the subset of the communications files with the current user-defined activity folder including allocating the communications files with a file folder definition of the current user-defined activity folder, thereby providing a common activity folder structure which includes communications files in individual file folders containing related user files.

30. (previously presented): A method for displaying and manipulating computer files within an information handling system wherein computer files are presented in

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a general folder structure including one or more activity folders, the method comprising:

automatically identifying a communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types;
automatically storing each of the files of the communication as separate files in a particular activity folder; and
thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the communication to be manipulated from the particular activity folder regardless of the application type.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the general folder structure is part of a tree directory structure maintained by the information handling system.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the activity folder comprises related files of one or more application type, wherein the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system-defined folder, a program-defined folder.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 32, wherein the one or more files of the activity folder are related according to at least one of the following: activity, work session, project, task, operation, date, time, order, client, user input, and contact information.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the one or more files of the activity folder are related according to at least one of the following: activity, work session, project, task, operation, date, time, order, client, user input, and contact information.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the method of identifying the communication includes at least one of the following: creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, moving, copying, and sending the communication.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein each of the one or more separate files of the communication in a particular activity folder are identified as related files of the communication.

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37. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein manipulating includes at least one of the following: storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming, and editing.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein manipulating the separate files of the communication includes manipulating the separate files between one or more activity folders.

39. (currently amended): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder; and
manipulating the identified file from ~~in~~ the activity folder in response to a user input.

40. (previously presented): The method of claim 33, further comprising:
storing the manipulated one or more files of the communication with related one or more files of the activity folder.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the stored one or more files of the communication is identified as related to the communication in the activity folder the file is stored.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types comprises one or more of the following: application files, document files, contact files, communication files, and web files.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types is identified as an email communication file and related attachments to the email communication file.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types is identified as a text file and related attachments to the text file.

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45. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
identifying one or more files of one or more application types without a communication; and
storing the identified files in the particular activity folder as separate files that can be manipulated from the activity folder regardless of application type.
46. (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the information handling system associates an application program for each of the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication, further comprising:
separating the communication upon arrival into an email communication file and one or more related attachment files of one or more application type;
storing the email file and the one or more related attachment files of one or more application type in the particular activity folder as related files; and
manipulating at least one of the following: the email file and the one or more related attachment files as separate files in the particular activity folder without accessing the application program associated with the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication.
47. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein manipulating includes at least one of the following: storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming, and editing.
48. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, further comprising:
identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder; and
manipulating the identified file in the activity folder in response to a user input.
49. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein identifying at least one of the files of the communication includes at least one of the following: creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, editing, moving, copying and sending the file.
50. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, further comprising:
storing the manipulated file with related one or more files in one or more activity folder regardless of application type.

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51. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein only one of the following is manipulated: the email message file, and the one or more related attachment files.
52. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein the manipulating is limited to manipulating the one or more related attachment files in the particular activity folder, without manipulating the related email file, by one or more of the following: processing, and performing operations on the one or more related attachment file.
53. (currently amended): A method for displaying and manipulating objects of one or more different types in a computer interface wherein the objects of different types are presented in a general folder structure including one or more user-defined activity folders, the method comprising:
- providing a computer interface wherein a user defined activity folder comprises objects of different application types as related objects regardless of the application type ~~with~~;
 - manipulating at least one of the objects of different application types from the activity folder of the computer interface;
 - associating one or more functionalities with the objects of different types and
 - coupling the associated functionalities of the objects such that these functionalities are available to a user within the user defined activity folder.